BATMAN LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT

189 APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

MAY 2005

McCARTHY
CASTILLO
RAMOS

RiDdLe mE ThaT Part 5 of 5

DIRECT SALES

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dccomics.com

LEASHED TO A PESKY REPORTER.
STRAPPED TO A BOMB.
BATTERED...
BRUISED...
OUTNUMBERED...
OUTSMARTED...
AND *PERSONALLY* GRANTING YOUR GREATEST ENEMY ACCESS TO THE VERY THING YOU WERE ATTEMPTING TO KEEP HIM FROM...
I'M HAZARDING A GUESS HERE, BUT...

Riddle Me That

CONCLUSION

SHANE McCARTHY writer | TOMMY CASTILLO penciller | RODNEY RAMOS inker

TONY AVINA–colorist PAT BROSSEAU–letterer
MICHAEL WRIGHT–associate ed. BOB SCHRECK–editor

Batman created by Bob Kane

"GREATEST ENEMY"?
SOON TO BE.
YOU FLATTER YOURSELF.
NO WHITE SKIN OR GREEN HAIR, I'LL GRANT YOU, BUT THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AGE.
A NEW AGE? BY STEALING A SCROLL? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO SELL, NIGMA.
SELL? WHAT WOULD I SELL IT FOR, MONEY? I DON'T NEED MONEY. I HAVE MONEY.
I DIDN'T SPEND COUNTLESS DOLLARS ON DEATH TRAPS AND MERCENARIES JUST SO I COULD STEAL A DIRTY OLD SCROLL SOME DEAD GREEK SCRIBBLED ALL OVER!
THE CHALLENGE. THE MATCHING OF WITS, AND HUMILIATING THE HELL OUT OF YOU.
EVERY GAME HAS ITS TROPHY, AND I'M NOT LEAVING HERE WITHOUT IT.
AND DR. DALLAWAY?
SERVED HIS PURPOSE, ALREADY RELEASED. MAN OF MY WORD.

I WONDERED WHEN YOU'D BE USING THAT, MS. HARRIS. OR WOULD YOU PREFER I CALL YOU MARIE?
WHA... OW! YOU KNEW?!
THAT YOU WEREN'T KARA? OF COURSE.
YOU LACK YOUR SISTER'S VARIED MANNERISMS AND SLIGHT, ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLE ACCENT FROM HAVING LIVED IN METROPOLIS.
COUPLE THAT WITH YOUR SEVERE LACK OF INTEREST IN KOUGHUN'S VERY PRIVATE SECRET, ONE THAT NO REPORTER COULD RESIST, AND IT WAS OBVIOUS.
THE RIDDLER HAD SWAPPED YOU WITH YOUR TWIN SISTER IN ORDER TO GET YOU CLOSE TO ME.
YOU ARRANGED FOR KARA TO BE SENT HERE. ALL THAT EFFORT JUST TO PLANT A MOLE?
WORTH EVERY PENNY.
BRIBING CITY HALL IS HARDLY AN EFFORT, MY GOOD MAN, BUT IF IT MEANT YOUR DEATH, OF COURSE.
THE CHANCE WAS THERE, SOMEONE RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE WHO WOULD ATTRACT YOUR SUPREME INDIFFERENCE...THE TWIN OF MY YOUTHFUL ASSISTANT. SWAP THEM AT THE RIGHT TIME...
AND THEN USE HER TO KILL ME ONCE I'D BEEN USED TO GAIN ENTRY HERE.
NICE TRY.
THANK YOU. I PLAN FOR EVERY CONTINGENCY.
ALMOST. AS USUAL THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'VE STILL FORGOTTEN...
HOWEVER, FOR NOW...IF YOU WANT HER BACK, RIDDLER, I BELIEVE A TRADE IS IN ORDER, DON'T YOU?

UM, NO, ACTUALLY, THANK YOU ANYWAY. BE SO KIND AS TO STAND ASIDE, WILL YOU?
NO. I'M WEARING THE DETONATOR...
SHE'S WEARING THE BOMB.
YOU ARE STILL WEARING A BOMB, OLD BOY.
WHAT, I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THAT YOU'D ENDANGER HER LIFE? YOU'RE THE GOOD GUY!
I WOULDN'T HAVE FALLEN FOR THAT EVEN WHEN I WAS PRANCING AROUND LIKE A GREEN JELLY BEAN!
PRESS THAT AND WE BOTH GO.
DON'T CARE, SORRY.
CARE NOW?

YOU'RE RUINING EVERYTHING! THIS ISN'T HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PLAY IT!
HAND HER OVER, RIDDLER, NOW.
MARIE! YOU B--!
UH, UH, DARLING, MANNERS. NOW, BATMAN, YOU WANT HER SO BADLY...
MIGHT AS WELL HAVE THIS, TOO.
NO!

DE-ACTIVATED IT AT KOUGHUN'S, REALLY DIDN'T TAKE THAT MUCH.
YOU CHEATED.
WHA... IT...IT WAS REAL?!
IT'S ALL ABOUT WINNING, RIGHT, EDDIE?
EDWARD!
THE BOMB WAS REAL?!
QUIET!
YOU REALLY THINK I'D EVER GIVE YOU THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF WINNING? I ALLOWED YOU TO ENTER HERE. I PLAYED ALONG.
ARE YOU HURT?
NO, I'M OKAY.
THIS WAY I'D GUARANTEE I HAD YOU. NO HOLOGRAMS, NO TRICKS. THE SCROLL STAYS WHERE IT IS.
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING? I SAID I PLAN FOR EVERY CONTINGENCY.
GENTLEMEN...

THIS IS HOW IT ALWAYS ENDS. TWO GREAT MINDS CHALLENGING EACH OTHER, AND IN THE END IT COMES DOWN TO ONE THING...
YOU BEING ABLE TO HIT A DAMN SIGHT HARDER THAN ME. WELL, NOT THIS TIME...
HE'S HURT, HONEY, I SAW HIM.
I KNOW, GORGEOUS, THAT WAS THE IDEA.
THESE MEN ARE FIVE OF THE MOST HIGHLY-TRAINED KILLERS IN THE WORLD.
THEY DON'T COME CHEAP.
ALONE, EACH MAN IS ALMOST UNBEATABLE. TOGETHER, NO ONE ALIVE CAN STOP THEM, NOT EVEN YOU.
I'M GIVING YOU ONE CHANCE. WALK AWAY, NOW, BEFORE YOU MAKE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF YOUR LIVES.
YEAH, RIGHT. PLAY SCHOOL'S OVER, BATS.
PUCKER UP, 'COS YOU'RE GOING DOWN.

WHACK
UHN!
WHUD
BADEET

WHACK
HOLD HIM! HOLD HIM!
WHACK
HOLD 'IM!
HE'S STRONG!
UHNN! HE'S...
WHACK
HOLD HIM!
DON'T... HE'S...!
FAAP
I THINK THAT'S ABOUT ENOUGH, PUNK, DON'T YOU?

WHKRAK
WHUMP
AARRGH!
KRAK

WHACK
AAGKT!
KRAK
RIDDLER!
THWACK

YOU CLEARLY DIDN'T THINK THIS THROUGH.

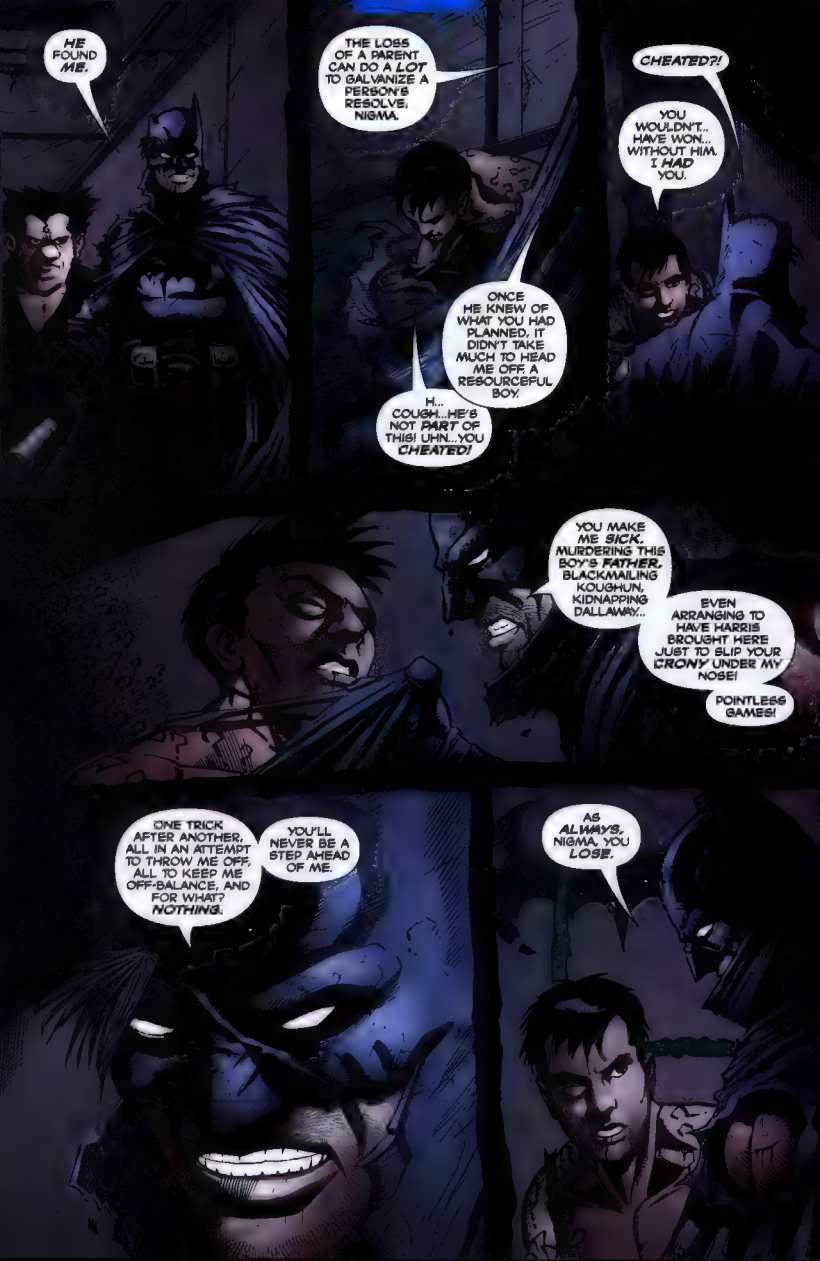
TYPICAL
DON'T BE PATHETIC.
NEVER
BLAM

HE GOT AWAY!
NOT QUITE.

SKRSHZZZT
HACK
EXIT
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, IDIOT.

WHKRACK
SO, JUST YOU AN' ME THEN, IS IT?
UGHN!

WHUMP
WHUD
WHUD
WHUD
THAT'S ENOUGH.
KRAK
THIS IS YOURS.
HOW... DID...YOU FIND...?


HE FOUND ME.
THE LOSS OF A PARENT CAN DO A LOT TO GALVANIZE A PERSON'S RESOLVE, NIGMA.
CHEATED?!
YOU WOULDN'T... HAVE WON... WITHOUT HIM. I HAD YOU.
ONCE HE KNEW OF WHAT YOU HAD PLANNED, IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO HEAD ME OFF. A RESOURCEFUL BOY.
H... COUGH...HE'S NOT PART OF THIS! UHN...YOU CHEATED!
YOU MAKE ME SICK. MURDERING THIS BOY'S FATHER, BLACKMAILING KOUGHUN, KIDNAPPING DALLAWAY...
EVEN ARRANGING TO HAVE HARRIS BROUGHT HERE JUST TO SLIP YOUR CRONY UNDER MY NOSE!
POINTLESS GAMES!
ONE TRICK AFTER ANOTHER, ALL IN AN ATTEMPT TO THROW ME OFF, ALL TO KEEP ME OFF-BALANCE, AND FOR WHAT? NOTHING.
YOU'LL NEVER BE A STEP AHEAD OF ME.
AS ALWAYS, NIGMA, YOU LOSE.

ENOUGH TO GIVE YOU A HEADACHE, REALLY.
LINE - DO NOT CROSS - POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS - POLICE
GCPD
AMAZING THE LENGTHS HE WENT TO.
HARRIS HAS LOST HER RESOLVE TO WRITE THE STORY. I, UH, NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER.
YOU SHOULD KNOW I NEVER WOULD HAVE ALLOWED THE--
POLICE
IT'S ALL OVER NOW. AT LEAST. WHERE'S THE BOY?
BUTTERY? NOT SURE, BIT OF A HERO, THAT KID.
WHAT IN GOD'S...

GREEN LANTERN REBORN

03.05

IN DEMAND

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This Month's Cover by...
SEAN PHILLIPS

"Strap in and hang on."
—Editor PETER TOMASI

GREEN LANTERN #1 (May 2005): Following Hal Jordan's miraculous REBIRTH, writer Geoff Johns (JSA) and SUPERMAN/BATMAN artist Carlos Pacheco launch this incredible new ongoing series! From the runways at Edwards Air Force Base to the darkest corner of Space Sector 2814, GREEN LANTERN proudly shines his light against extraterrestrial threats of all kinds, starting with those out to hunt down the ring's energy source for themselves. Beware his power, and be ready for out-of-this-world adventure!!

Next Month in...

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #190

A brand-new story arc! Batman continues to try to protect Gotham City without the help of his allies and without the cooperation of the police. But when Mr. Freeze starts acting like he's never aided before, will Batman be able to save the city in time?

The

THIS WEEK

ACTION COMICS #825

Villains unite in this special extra-sized anniversary issue! Doomsday and Gog attack Superman in the middle of a deserted Metropolis, leveling the city. But will one of these villains turn and save Superman from destruction?

BLOOD OF THE DEMON #1

All the rules have changed in this new series from writers John Byrne and Will Pfeifer with art by Byrne and Nekros! Expect pandemonium and mayhem as the Demon Etrigan takes on otherworldly foes in the first battle of an all-out war!

SEVEN SOLDIERS: SHINING KNIGHT #1 (OF 4)

The Lord of the Rings meets The D.C. as visionary writer Grant Morrison and artist Simone Bianchi continue the SEVEN SOLDIERS saga with a modern fantasy epic that finds a teenaged knight of the Round Table thrust into 21st-century Los Angeles.

COUNTDOWN LAUNCHES NEW MINISERIES

News of this month's COUNTDOWN has certainly caused quite a stir with fans, leaving them to wonder exactly what will happen next. Keep your eyes peeled for these miniseries that will incite even more speculation in the coming months.

The chaotic conjecture amps up in April when ROBIN scribe Bill Willingham, interior artists Justiniano and Walden Wong (THE HUMAN RACE), and cover artist Walter Simonson (ELRIC) unleash DAY OF VENGEANCE, six issues of reality-bending combat that pits DC's magic characters against the Spectre and a new Eclipso! That same month, Greg Rucka (WONDER WOMAN) and MANHUNTER's Jesus Saiz initiate THE OMAC PROJECT, a six-issue chiller in which Batman's ultimate weapon becomes the DC Universe's greatest nightmare.

Meanwhile, if you think the bad guys are gonna take the COUNTDOWN lying down, check out the six-issue VILLAINS UNITED this May. BIRDS OF PREY writer Gail Simone teams with H-E-R-O artists Dale Eaglesham and Wade von Grawbadger and cover artist J.G. Jones (*Wanted*) to organize the world's vilest. Finally, award-winning creator Dave Gibbons (WATCHMEN, THE ORIGINALS), joins the ACTION COMICS art tandem of Ivan Reis and Marc Campos in May for the RANN/THANAGAR WAR. This six-issue mini, which also spins out of events from ADAM STRANGE, pairs Rann's champion with Hawkman, Hawkgirl, Green Lantern, and a cast of DC's greatest space adventurers against an evil that will bring two worlds to their knees!

ALL-STAR LINEUPS

There has been a ton of gossip regarding ALL STAR, books where some of comics' greatest talents present all-new tales of our iconic characters in their "classic" motifs, but with plenty of twists and turns added. We don't like using the term "all star" without having good reason to do so. Thankfully, that's precisely what we'll have in July, when Frank Miller (THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS) and Jim Lee (SUPERMAN) kick off ALL STAR BATMAN & ROBIN! Frank and Jim will explore the Dynamic Duo's early relationship as Bruce Wayne trains his ward, Dick Grayson, in the ways of war over Gotham's rooftops.

Later this year, the titanic team of Grant Morrison and Frank Quitely (WE 3, *New X-Men*) inaugurate ALL STAR SUPERMAN. Early word is that this series will have it all, exploring the vastness of space while simultaneously dancing on the head of a pin. We also hear it presents Clark, Lois, Jimmy, and the rest of Metropolis in a way that's (single-)bound to have readers reeling for years to come!

-your NOLE at 1700

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NO.
POLICE
WHERE TO NOW, BOSS?
EXCELLENT WORK, MARTIN, FABULOUS! AND TO THINK YOUR FATHER NEVER BELIEVED YOU'D AMOUNT TO ANYTHING!
MY FATHER WAS AN IDIOT.
YES, WELL, THAT'S WHERE WE BOTH AGREE.

YOU GOT THAT OFF THE BATMAN?!
NOT QUITE, DEAR. HE NEVER HAD IT TO BEGIN WITH. MARTIN HANDED HIM THE FAKE FROM THE START.
DESERVES IT, REALLY. HE NEVER PLAYS FAIR.
YOU'RE SO SMART, EDDIE!
EDWARD, DARLING.
SORRY, EDWARD.
THERE'S A GIRL.
END